

STELLWAGEN BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



Habitats

Sand & gravel bank **Muddy basins Boulder fields Rocky ledges**

Open ocean













Key Species

Northern right whale **Humpback whale Atlantic white-sided** dolphin

Wilson's storm petrel

Northern gannet

Sand lance

Atlantic cod

Atlantic bluefin tuna

Northern lobster

Astonishing Fact

New England's famous storms—"nor'easters"—carry enough energy to redistribute sand across the top of Stellwagen Bank, some 100 feet below the sea surface.







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Astonishing Fact

Nearly one million visitors come to Stellwagen Bank each year, many to see the endangered humpback whales, which feed in the rich waters over the bank. These active marine mammals prey on schools of sand lance, a type of small fish that can bury itself in the sandy sea floor.





Humpback Whale Breach

Sanctuary designation
November 1992

Sea Scallon